

Message Text

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41

ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-08 IO-04 ISO-00 SAM-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-01 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-20 USIA-06 OMB-01 CIEP-01 /072 R

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 225981

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UN, XF

SUBJECT: FRENCH EXPLANATION OF VOTE ON PLO ISSUE IN UNGA
PLEASE PASS TO ATHERTON, SECRETARY'S PARTY.

1. FRENCH EMBASSY COUNSELOR VALADAS CALLED ON NEA/IAI
DEPTOFF 10/11, ON INSTRUCTIONS, TO EXPLAIN FRENCH DECISION
TO VOTE "YES" ON QUESTION OF INVITATION TO PLO TO ATTEND
UNGA DEBATE ON PALESTINIAN ITEM. VALADAS SAID GOF HAD
DECIDED TO VOTE YES ON PROCEDURAL QUESTION OF INVITATION
TO PLO IN ORDER TO PRESERVE FRENCH CREDIBILITY AND INFLU-
ENCE WITH ARAB DELEGATIONS ON MATTERS OF SUBSTANCE WHICH
WILL ARISE DURING EXPECTED DEBATE OF PALESTINIAN ITEM IN
NOVEMBER. VALADAS STRESSED THAT ARABS HAVE BEEN INFORMED
BY GOF THAT ITS SUPPORT OF INVITATION TO PLO BEING GIVEN
IN EXPECTATION THAT ARABS WILL CONSULT WITH FRANCE ON OUT-
COME OF DEBATE, AND THAT FRANCE WILL NOT SUPPORT AN OUTCO;E
THAT IN ANY WAY CHALLENGES ISRAEL'S RIGHT TO SOVEREIGN
EXISTENCE WITHIN ITS PRE-1967 BORDERS. SPECIFICALLY,
VALADAS SAID THAT FRENCH FONMIN HAD A COMMITMENT FROM
EGYPTIAN FONMIN FAHMY THAT ARAB RESOLUTION FOLLOWING DEBATE
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WILL BE MODERATE, INCLUDING AVOIDANCE OF ANY CHALLENGE TO

ISRAEL'S RIGHT TO EXIST. ACCORDING VALADAS, FAHMY ALSO SAID EGYPT WANTS TO LIMIT PLO PRESENCE IN DEBATE TO OPENING AND CLOSING STATEMENTS, LEAVING ARAB DELS TO CONDUCT ACTUAL DEBATE.

2. VALADAS SAID THAT JUST PRIOR TO SECRETARY'S TRAVEL, FRENCH HERE HAD BEEN GIVEN TO UNDERSTAND THAT U.S. TENDING TOWARD "NO" VOTE ON PLO INVITATION QUESTION; HE ASKED IF DECISION TO VOTE HAD BEEN MADE. DEPTOFF REPLIED THAT A TENDENCY IS NOT A DECISION, WHICH HAS YET TO BE MADE. INGERSOLL

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